



Client: Georgina Kelly
Site Address: 15 Dark Lane, Wargrave, RG10 8JU
Date: 28/01/2026

TREE REPORT

I. Author Qualifications & Experience:

Author: Raef Williams, Director of Williams Hedge & Tree Ltd

The author has over 15 years of arboricultural experience, relevant qualifications to the tree report are Lantra Professional tree inspection and Land Skills Tree Inspection courses. I also have NPTCCS30, CS31 and CS32, CS38, EFAW+F, Lantra (MEWPs) and Wood chippers Certificates.

II. Survey Methodology and Limitations of Report:

The trees were surveyed from the ground using 'Visual Tree Assessment' (VTA) methodology. VTA is appropriate and is endorsed by industry guidance. It is used by arboriculturists to evaluate the structural integrity of a tree, relying on observation of the tree's biomechanics and physiological features.

Measurements were obtained using a laser distometer, loggers tape and a sounding hammer. Where this is not practical, measurements are estimated. Shrubs and insignificant trees may have been omitted from the survey.

This tree report is an observational survey and should not be accepted as a detailed tree safety inspection report. However, tree related hazards are recorded and commented upon as observed, yet no guarantee can be given as to the absolute safety or otherwise of any individual tree. All recommended tree work must be to BS 3998:2010 - 'Tree Work:Recommendations'.

III. Tree Survey Results

This tree is under TPO protection, therefore you MUST receive proper permissions from the relevant authorities before any work can commence.

The tree survey consists of 1 individual Copper Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Purpurea').

TPO Number: 110B/1976

The tree is located on the South side of the back garden of no.15 Dark Lane, approximately 2 metres from the boundary of the property.

To1

This mature Copper Beech stands in the rear garden of no. 15 Dark Lane, halfway down the south side of the garden approximately 2 metres from the boundary fence (A,B). The tree is approximately 25 metres tall, with a crown spread of 23 metres East - West. North to South measurements of the crown were not possible but are approximately 23 metres. The circumference of the trunk is 3.70 metres at 1.5 metre.



To1 from garden N/W. (A)



To1 from garden N/E. (B)

The root system showed no visible abnormalities at ground level. There were no signs of ground heave, soil cracking, or lifting around the base of the tree. A sounding hammer was used to assess the lower stem, buttresses, and root flare, and no indications of internal decay or hollowing were detected (C,D). No fungal fruiting bodies were present around the base of the tree or within the surrounding area at the time of inspection.



To1 Trunk and Buttresses (C)



To1 Trunk and Buttresses (D)

The main stem up to approximately 2.5 metres appeared normal and free from defects. At approximately 2.5 metres, the first major scaffold limbs branch from the main trunk (F). On the primary limb extending to the East, there is a large historic pruning wound located on the north side of the branch, approximately 0.5 metres from the main stem (E). This wound has developed into a cavity, it is unclear how deep this cavity extends down the limb. Occlusion is occurring; however, it is unlikely that the wound will fully occlude. Despite this, the limb union itself appears stable at present. All other major limb unions at this level were observed to be normal and in good condition (F).



To1 Cavity lowest eastern limb (E)



To1 Trunk and lower Scaffold limbs (F)

Further up the crown, there are several historic pruning wounds, most of which are successfully occluding (G). One pruning wound has not fully occluded but does not currently present obvious signs of associated decay (H). At approximately 6 metres above ground level, the tree transitions into a multi-stemmed structure (G).



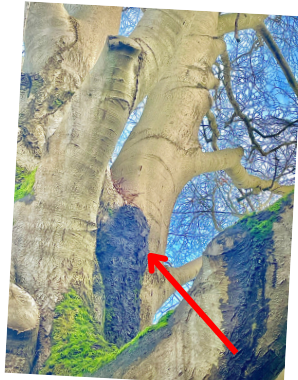
To1 multi-stemmed trunk (G)



Historic wound (H)



N-E elephant ear (I)



S-W elephant ear (J)

At the union between the south-eastern lead stem and the other stems, there is evidence of an “elephant ear” formation (I,J). This area appeared darker in colour, likely due to moisture retention, which may be indicative of underlying internal decay; however, this cannot be confirmed from ground-level inspection alone. The elephant ear formation on the south-west side (J) is notably larger than that on the opposing side. The remaining lead stems appeared normal, with no visible signs of decay or structural weakness.

Throughout the canopy, there are multiple historic pruning wounds dating back several years. These appear consistent with past management practices and, in general, are responding appropriately.

From a visual perspective, there is a slight asymmetry to the crown, particularly with several major limbs extending toward the dwelling and towards the swimming pool area (L). These limbs could be reduced to better balance the crown in line with the upper canopy. A similar condition exists on the south-eastern side of the tree, where limbs extend over adjacent conifer trees (K).



To1 Crown South side (K)



To1 Crown East side (L)

Recommendations:

It is recommended that attention is given to the lead stem unions where the elephant ear formation is present by selectively thinning and slightly reducing the stem by 1-2 metres. This would help to reduce sail effect, improve airflow through the canopy, and lessen mechanical loading on the potentially weakened union.

I would also recommend reducing the lowest eastward limb to lessen mechanical loading on the union where the cavity is present.

Any works should be undertaken in accordance with current British Standard BS3998:2010 (Tree Work – Recommendations).

IV. Explanation of Tree Descriptions:

HEIGHT of the tree is an approximate measurement from the stem base to the top of the crown in metres.

STEM DIAMETER is measured at 1.5 metres above ground level. Where the tree is multi-stemmed at this point the diameter is measured close to ground level or else a combined stem diameter is calculated.

CROWN SPREAD is measured at its widest from the tip of the branch to the opposing branch tip.

AGE CLASS of the tree is described as young, semi-mature, mature, or over-mature.

PHYSIOLOGICAL CONDITION is classed as good, fair, poor, or dead. This is an indication of the health of the tree and takes into account vigour, presence of disease and dieback.

STRUCTURAL CONDITION is classed as good, fair or poor. This is an indication of the structural integrity of the tree and takes into account significant wounds, decay and quality of branch junctions.

COLOUR CODING:

- Trees that have been deemed as healthy and safe are highlighted in green.
- Trees that have been deemed as either healthy or safe but NOT both are highlighted in orange.
- Trees that have been deemed as dangerous and require action to be taken immediately have been marked in red and pictures of those trees have been attached at the end of the report.

A map has also been created detailing the locations of all the trees listed in the report.

V. Disclaimer and Limitation of Liability

This report is based on a visual, ground-level inspection using Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) techniques. No invasive testing or climbing inspections were carried out. Observations are limited to what was visible at the time of inspection, and no guarantee is given, express or implied, regarding the absolute safety, stability, or long-term condition of any tree mentioned in this report.

Recommendations contained herein are based on best professional judgement at the time of inspection. Conditions may change due to environmental factors, hidden decay, or structural defects not visible during the survey.

The information contained in this report is valid for twelve (12) months from the inspection date. Williams Hedge & Tree Services shall not be held liable for any loss, damage, or injury resulting from reliance on this report beyond its scope or period of validity.

VI. Legal

Due to the large potential penalties for illegally carrying out work on protected trees, before authorising any tree work a check should be made with the Local Planning Authority to see if the trees are covered by a Tree Preservation Order or if they are within a Conservation Area (unless such works are approved by planning permission). If either applies, then statutory permission is required before any works can take place.

When appointing a tree surgeon, only properly qualified and experienced companies should be used, who have adequate Public Liability and Employer's Liability Insurance. All tree work should be carried out according to British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Work - Recommendations.

Tree No	To1 TPO Number: 110B/1976
Tree Species	Copper Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> 'Purpurea')
Height (m)	Approx 25 Metres
Crown Spread	23 Metres East - West
Trunk Circumference at 1.5m	3.70 Metres
Age Class	Mature
Crown density	75% - 100%
Structural Condition	Fair
General Health	Good
Comments	The Beech tree located at No. 15, Dark Lane, Wargrave is in generally good physiological and structural condition at the time of inspection. The root plate, buttress roots, and lower stem show no visible signs of instability, decay, or fungal activity. Sounding of the basal area did not indicate internal decay. The main stem and primary scaffold limbs appear sound. A historic pruning wound on the eastern primary limb has developed into a cavity and is partially occluding; however, the limb remains stable at present. The crown contains multiple historic pruning wounds, most of which are occluding. At approximately 6 metres, the tree forms a multi-stemmed structure with three co-dominant lead stems. An elephant ear formation is present at the union between two lead stems, which may indicate adaptive growth and potential internal dysfunction. While no definitive signs of decay were confirmed from ground level, ongoing monitoring is advised.
Recommendations	Selective crown thinning and reduction on identified limbs are recommended , to reduce mechanical loading at key unions, and manage overall risk. Overall, the tree is considered to present a low level of risk at this time, subject to the recommended management works being undertaken and periodic re-inspection.
Timescale for recommended work	1-2 Years
Reinspection times scale	18 months

Map

